

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

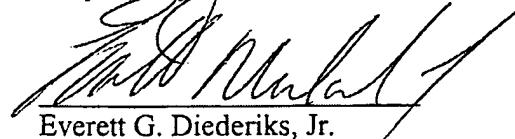
This Request for Continued Examination is being filed to further the prosecution in this application. Based on the positions taken by the U.S. Examiner in connection with prior presented claims 4-6, claims 4-6 remain intact and new claims 7-15 have been added. Basically, new claims 7-15 have been drafted in the hopes of presenting the claimed invention in a manner more favorably viewed by the Examiner. However, in reviewing the application and known prior art in connection with preparing this RCE filing, it appeared apparent to the undersigned that absolutely none of the applied prior art references is even remotely concerned with the present invention.

More specifically, the current invention is basically directed to a method for inspecting a channel pipe by creating a virtual pipe model using the known geometry of a given pipe in combination with actual and fictitious camera images of the pipe to provide a continuous image of the pipe. That is, actual camera images and known pipe geometry are used to create fictitious images of portions of the pipe between the camera images. In this manner, a person viewing the pipe model sees a continuous image of the pipe, even though only select portions of the pipe have actually been imaged by a camera. By contrast, the prior art reference of Peleg et al. (World Document No. 98/34195) is directed to a video mosaicing method used to increase a visual field by piecing together various video frames. For example a panoramic view can be made by stitching together three different pictures. The prior art reference of Shirato et al. is generally directed to a curved image conversion method which converts curved images formed by a fish-eye lens into a plane image. Although the Examiner has continually rejected the claims in this application, the claimed invention is limited to a particular method for inspecting pipe and none of the applied prior art or the rejections set forth in the Office Actions properly addresses this invention. To this end, it is submitted that the previously presented claims should be allowed. To even further distinguish the invention, new claims 7-15 have been added which are seen to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention in a slightly different fashion.

Application Serial No. 10/509,167
Preliminary Amendment

Upon acknowledgement of the RCE filing and the entry of this preliminary amendment, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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